

DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: July 11, 2003

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Scope of practice for RDAs

Section (s) Affected: 1086 and 1086.1

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

The specific purpose of these proposed regulations is to establish a more open scope of practice for RDAs. The proposed changes would also allow RDAs to continue to perform all of the duties that they are currently allowed to perform, as well as many new duties.

Factual Basis:

Regulation Section 1086 defines the duties that Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) are allowed to perform, and the settings and level of dentist supervision required when performing such duties.

The proposed change would establish a more open scope of practice for RDAs, allowing the dentist discretion in delegating appropriate activities based on assessment of all the RDA's skills and abilities, which will expand the duties that RDAs are allowed to perform.

The proposed changes will essentially allow the RDAs to continue to perform all of the duties that they are currently allowed to perform, as well as many new duties.

The proposed changes would also allow the degree of supervision to be determined by the dentist, commensurate with the RDA's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The proposed changes would also allow an RDHEF or RDHAP (in addition to the current regulatory language allowing a dentist or RDH) to determine that the teeth to be coronally polished are free of calculus or other extraneous material prior to coronal polishing, since RDHEFs and RDHAPs are by law allowed to perform all of the duties that an RDH is allowed to perform, and are therefore as qualified as an RDH to make such a determination.

Proposed new Section 1086.1 would allow an RDA to be employed or supervised by an RDHAP if limited to duties falling within the scope of practice of both the RDA and RDHAP.

Underlying Data

1. Review of the Regulatory Structure and Scope of Practice for California's Dental Auxiliaries, Sjobert and Evashenk Consulting, LLC, September 1, 2003, p.15-17.
2. Supplemental Sunset Review Report on Auxiliary Scopes of Practice, Committee on Dental Auxiliaries, October 5, 2002, p. 5-7.

Business Impact:

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative which was considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Dental Board of California would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.